MARVEL COMICS
SPIDER-MAN
THE ARACHNIS PROJECT
THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION
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6
JAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
SPIDEY'S GOT TO RESCUE VENOM AND THE JURY.
THERE'S JUST ONE CATCH--
--THEY DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED!
DIRECT EDITION
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STAN LEE Presents: SPIDER-MAN in the CONCLUDING chapter of THE ARACHNIS PROJECT!
BATTLE ROYAL!
THE STORY SO FAR: SPIDER-MAN AND THE JURY ARE TRAPPED IN THE UNDERGROUND BUNKER OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION. NOW, MINUTES BEFORE THE BASE IS DUE TO SELF-DESTRUCT, VENOM APPEARS, OUT FOR BLOOD...
MIKE LACKEY.....SCRIPT
ANDREW WILLIAMSON.....PENCILS
STEPHEN BASKERVILLE.....INKS
CHIA-CHI HSIAO.....COLORS
JAMIE MOEPE.....LETTERS
ERIC FEIN.....EDITS
JEANNY FINGEROTH.....GROUP EDITS
TOM DEFALCO.....CHIEF
WE SAW THE LIVE TV COVERAGE OF THE DODGER ASSAULT ON THE SNEAK-THIEF * AND FLEW OUT EAST TO DEAL WITH MY OLD FOES, THE LIFERS...
...SINCE WE MISSED ALL THE ACTION WITH THEM...
...WE'LL KILL YOU SAPS INSTEAD!
THIS FACILITY WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN T-MINUS 15 MINUTES.
OVERIDE OPTION EXPIRES AT T-MINUS 10 MINUTES. THIS BASE IS ON YELLOW ALERT.
NO, VENOM! I WON'T LET YOU KILL THEM!!
* ISSUE # 2 -- ERIC

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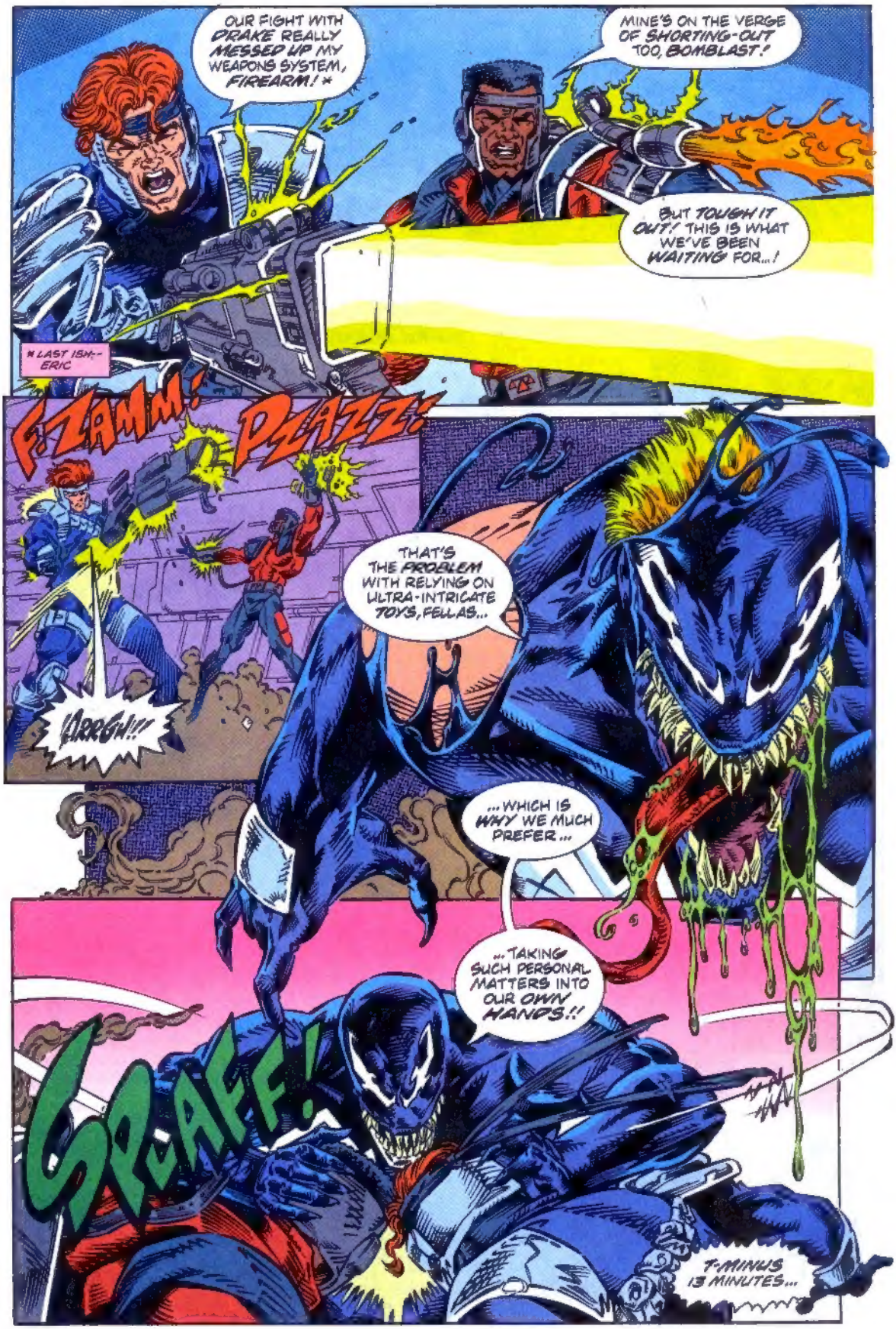
FOR ALL THEIR TRAINING AND TOUGH TALK, THE JURY'S MOMENT OF TRUTH HAS FINALLY COME AND THEY'RE BLOWING IT BIG TIME!
SORRY, SPIDER-MAN. ALTHOUGH WE NO LONGER WISH TO KILL YOU, WE WON'T LET YOU STOP US FROM KILLING OUR OTHER ENEMIES!
FIRE AT WILL, RAMSHOT!! THAT MURDERING MONSTER'S GOING DOWN... NOW!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SENTRY...
...BUT OUR ARMOR'S POWER SOURCES ARE DEPLETED NOW, WHEN WE NEED THEM MORE THAN EVER!
AAWEEEEEE
PZZOWWW!!
STOP!! YOUR SONICS'LL KILL HIM!
THAT'S THE IDEA, WALL-CRAWLER!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!
THE BUNKER IS GONNA BLOW SKY HIGH IN A MATTER OF MINUTES! THE NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE OVERHEATING AND THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP IT!
T-MINUS 14 MINUTES...


OUR FIGHT WITH DRAKE REALLY MESSED UP MY WEAPONS SYSTEM, FIREARM! *
MINE'S ON THE VERGE OF SHORTING-OUT TOO, BOMBLAST!
BUT TOUGH IT OUT! THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...!
* LAST ISH:-- ERIC
F-ZAMM!
PZAZZ!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH RELYING ON ULTRA-INTRICATE TOYS, FELLAS...
ARRGH!!
...WHICH IS WHY WE MUCH PREFER...
...TAKING SUCH PERSONAL MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS!!
SP-AFF!
T-MINUS 13 MINUTES...

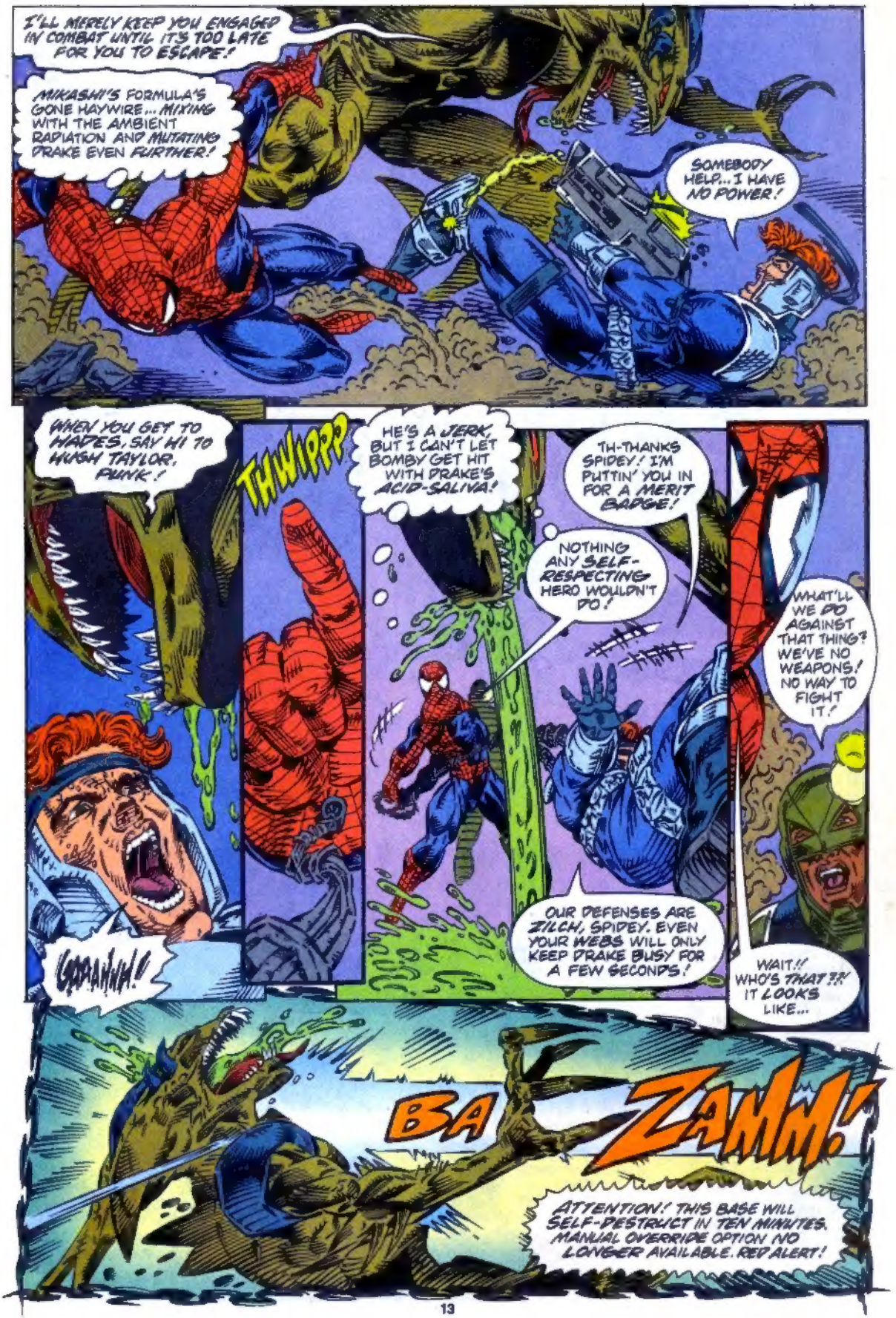
PLEASE, VENOM...
SPLAK
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THE LIFERS HAVE RIGGED THIS PLACE TO SELF-DESTRUCT!
I HOPE HE LISTENS TO REASON... FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN WE'RE ALL BATTLE-WEARY WHILE HE'S FRESH AS A DEMENTED DAISY!
WE'RE UNCONVINCED, SPIDER-MAN.
WE SEE YOUR POINT. COMBAT IS FUTILE.
WE MUST GET THE INNOCENT GIRL-CHILD TO SAFETY!
YEEARRRG!!
FZZAP
THEN TURN AROUND! MIHO THERE MUST BE SAVED!
THANKS FOR THE DISTRACTION, SPIDER-MAN!
NNNNNNNNN.
THAT WASN'T A DISTRACTION, YOU MORON... I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SORRY LIVES!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON,...EH?
WEB-LINE CLOGGING MY FIRING MECHANISM...!
FA BAZZHH!
THIS IS ALL SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL! HOW DO I SAVE A BUNCH OF GUNG-HO GUYS WHO DON'T SEEM TO WANT ME TO?!?
HOO-HA!
PLIP!

OH, POPPA. I KNOW YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE TO SAVE OURS*, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT HURT ANY LESS.
THE LIFERS CORRUPTED YOUR DREAM... TOOK AWAY YOUR HOPES...
...BUT THIS I SWEAR... I WILL SURVIVE... TO AVENGE YOUR GOOD NAME!
* LAST ISH.-- ERIC.
AND, IN THE HANGAR BAY...
STRAP YOURSELVES IN, GENTS. THIS BIRD'S READY TO FLY!
VERY GOOD. I'M EAGER TO SEVER ANY CONNECTIONS TO THE LIFE FOUNDATION.
DAD-- I CAN SEE THE BATTLE ON THESE TV MONITORS...IT'S BRUTAL!
IF THE PENDING EXPLOSION DOESN'T KILL THE JURY, THEN VENOM WILL!
THE JURY IS DAMAGED GOODS. IT'S NO GREAT LOSS!
MAYBE YOU CAN HAVE MURDER ON YOUR SOUL...
I'M THROUGH TRYING TO PLEASE YOU... I HAVE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT!
AND IF I DIE... AT LEAST IT WILL BE WITH HONOR! AND THAT'S SOMETHING I'LL NEVER HAVE AS LONG AS I'M IN YOUR SHADOW!
...BUT NOT ME!!
MAX! COME BACK, YOU FOOL!
COME ON, TAYLOR... WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.

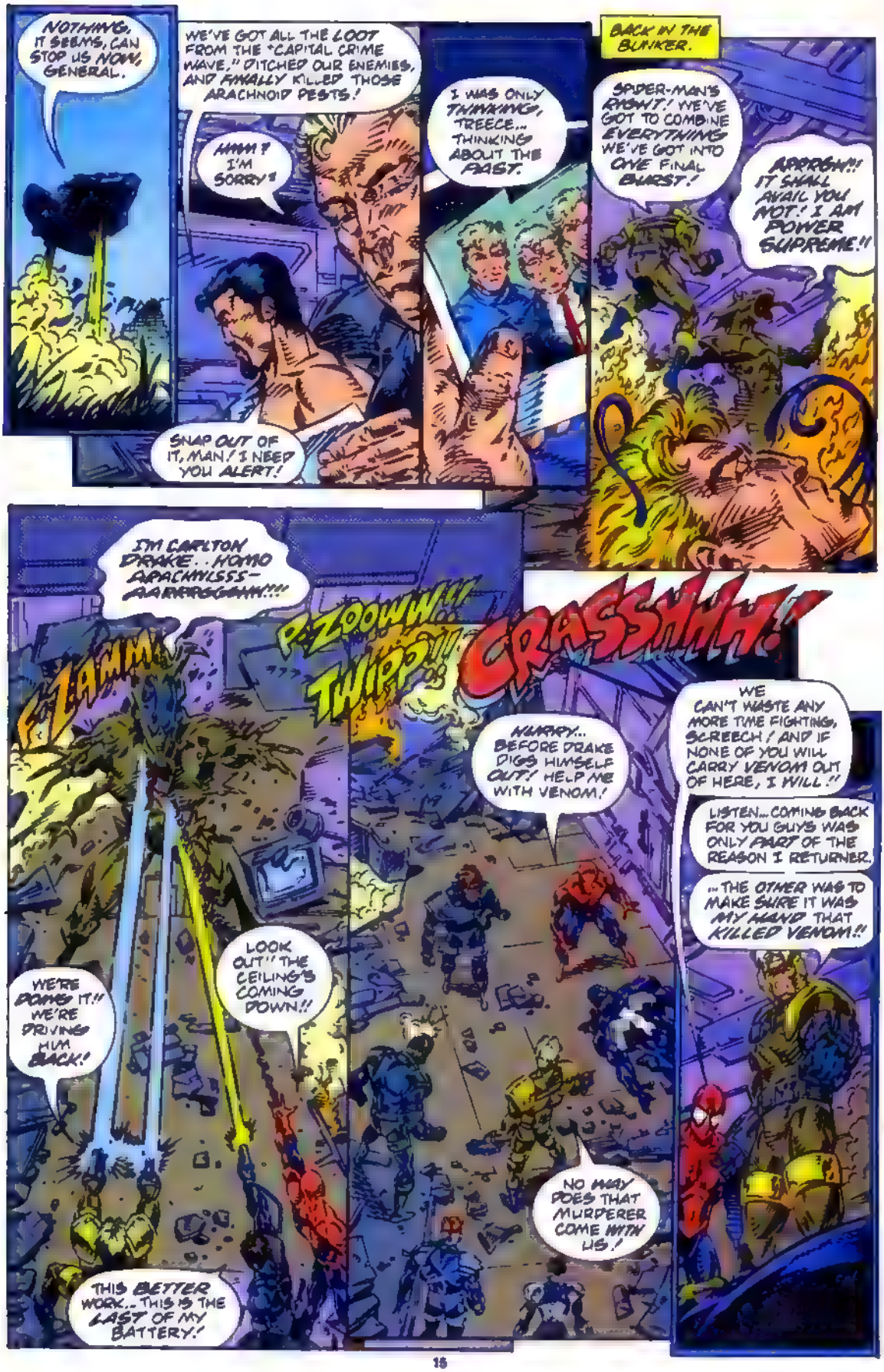
MEANWHILE.
GUILTY, AS CHARGED.
TOO BAD YOUR SPIDER-SENSE DOESN'T WARN YOU TO DUCK AS WE BACKHAND OLD BOMBLAST, HERE!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU... BUT STANDING BETWEEN US AND OUR APPOINTED ROUNDS IS SHEER FOLLY!
SPAKK
DEAL'S OFF, WEB-HEAD! BACK TO KNUCKLE-BUSTING.
YOU'RE INSANE!! WE'LL DIE!!
UGH! HE'S RIGHT! VENOM DOESN'T REGISTER ON MY SPIDER-SENSE AT ALL! GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL!
DIE! PUPPET OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION!
YOU TALKIN' TO US? WE DON'T WORK FOR...!
OWCH.
ARE THERE NO INNOCENTS ANYWHERE?
MUST WE KILL YOU ALL?!
NO ONE ELSE CAN HELP HER. SHE'LL SUFFOCATE!
SHE'LL DIE...UNLESS I KILL VENOM!!
SYMBIOTE'S TENDRILS... SLINKING DOWN MIHO'S THROAT!
BUT... CAN I KILL ANYBODY?
AIN'T YOU HEARD, RAMSHOT?
HE WHO HESITATES IS TOAST!!

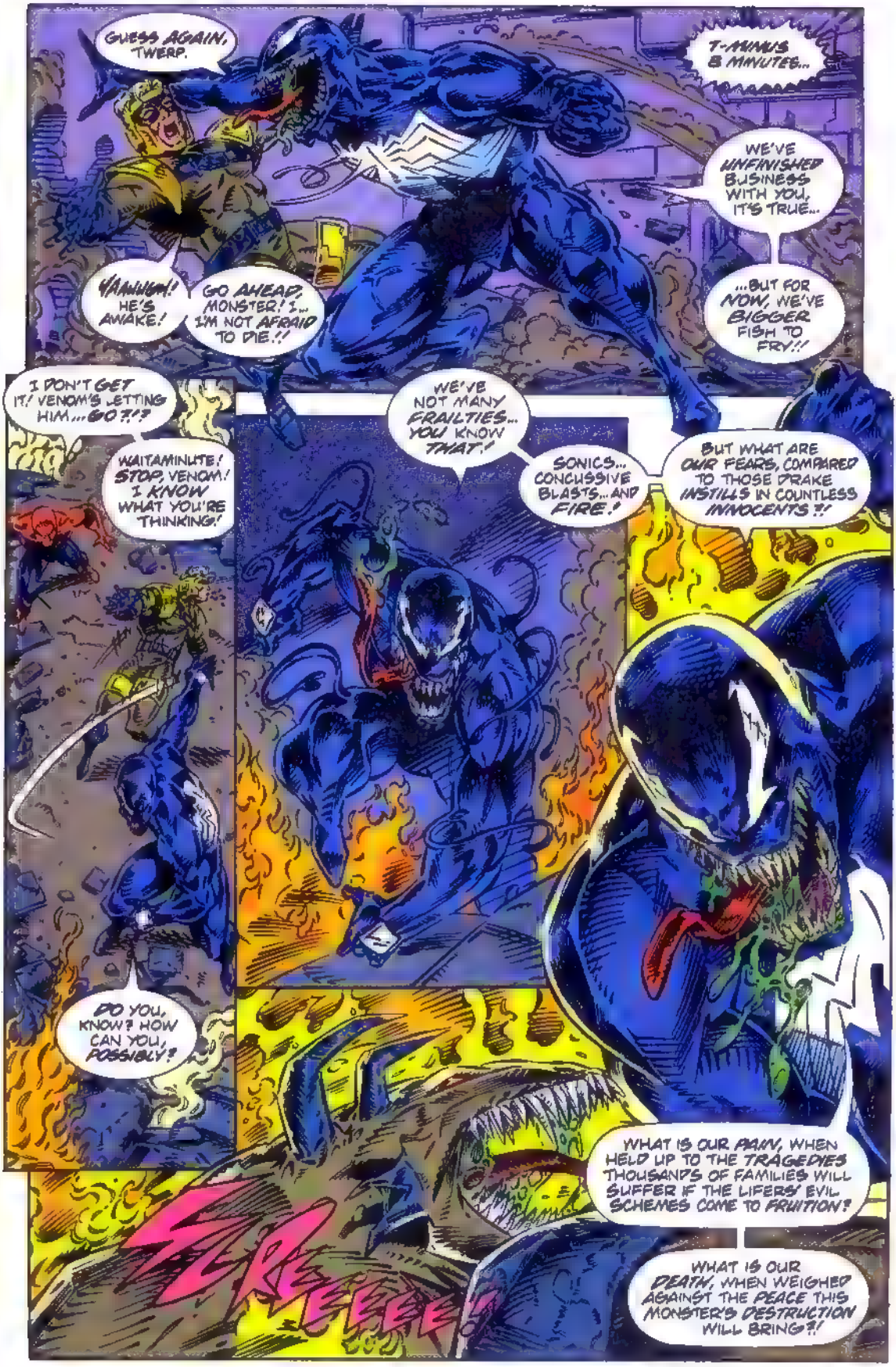
WHAT WAS THAT FOR? HOPING WE'D TAKE OUR TOYS AND GO HOME?!
ACTUALLY, YES!
ALL REMAINING PERSONNEL HAVE FLED.. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT DOWN HERE!
T-MINUS 12 MINUTES!
DON'T FRET, WEBS! WITH THEIR ARMOR DOWN, WE'LL HAVE YOUR JURY PALS FILLETED IN MERE SECONDS, THEN IT'S BACK TO SAN FRAN!
AND SINCE WE'RE FEELING PARTICULARLY MAGNANIMOUS, WE'LL EVEN LET YOU TAKE THE GIRL.
FRA-ZARKK
ARRRGHH!! WE HATE SONIC WEAPONS!!
SPUTTER... GASP!
LEAVE HER ALONE, VENOM... NO MORE KILLING!!
I DIDN'T... COULDN'T KILL HIM, BUT I COULDN'T LET HIM KILL HER EITHER!
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, RAMMY. A TRUE HERO DOESN'T TAKE A LIFE...FOR ANY REASON.
NOW, SINCE WE'RE ALL SO CHUMMY, LET'S SPLIT! TIME AND NUCLEAR BOMBS WAIT FOR NO MAN.

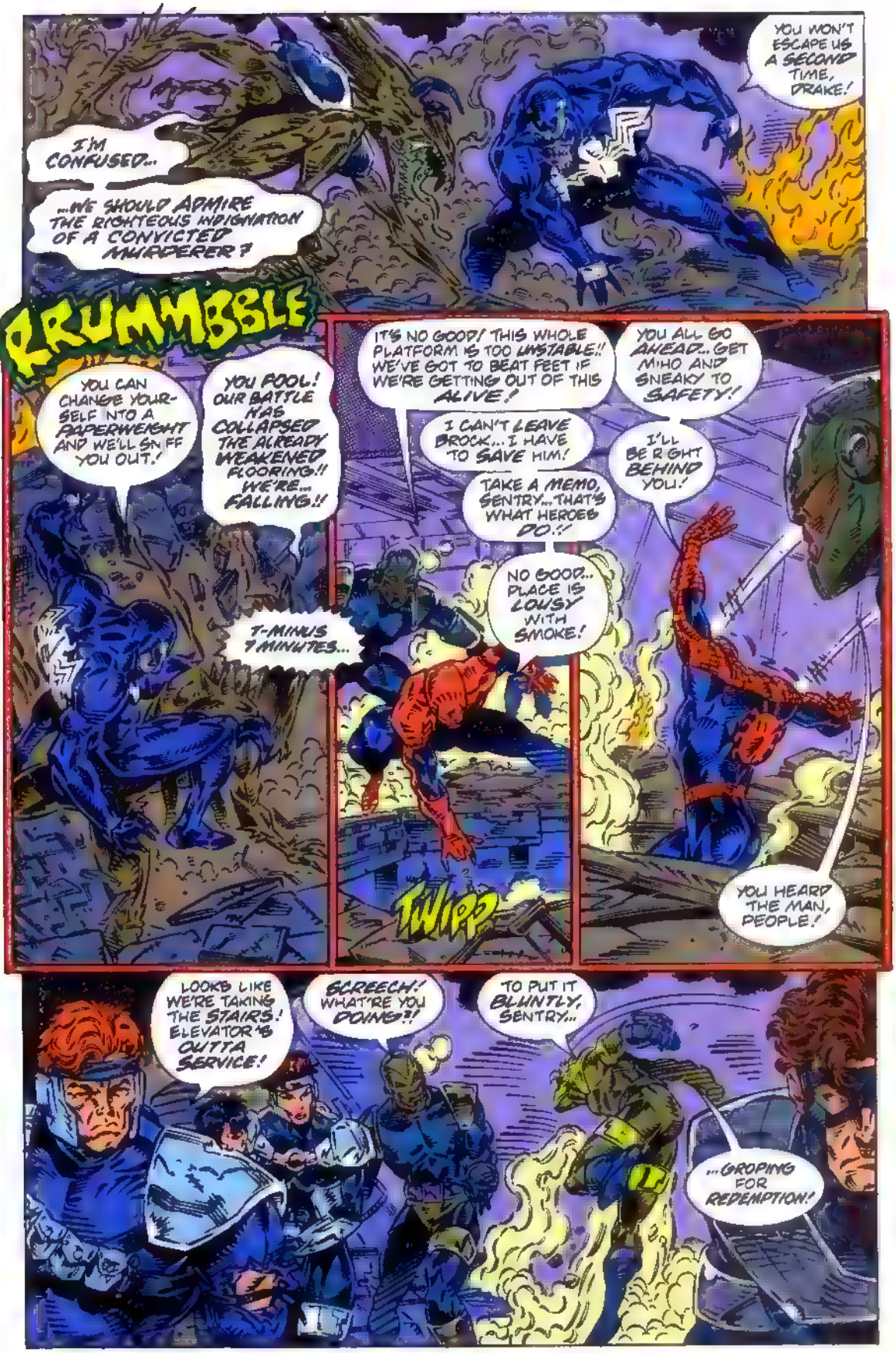
RRRUMMMBBLLLE!!
ANOTHER EXPLOSION!! THE CHAIN REACTION'S BEGUN!!
T-MINUS 11 MINUTES...
ONCE THE BUNKER REACHES RED ALERT, THE TITANIUM STEEL BLAST DOORS WEDGE SHUT... LOCKING US IN AND CONTAINING THE NUCLEAR BLAST.
WHAT ABOUT VENOM? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE!
ONLY BY USING SENTRY'S PASS-KEY CARD CAN WE ESCAPE!
YES, WE CAN.
I AIN'T CARRYING HIM!
BESIDES, OUR WEAPONS ARE TOTALED! HE'LL KILL US SOON AS HE REVIVES!
MAYBE THESE GUYS HAVE DITCHED THE GENERAL... BUT THEY'RE STILL JERKS.
UH-OH! SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING... WHAT...?
OH, MAN! I KNEW WE SHOULDA BEEN RUNNING INSTEAD OF TALKING!
SUCCESS!! I HAVE TRULY EVOLVED TO A HIGHER LIFE FORM!
UNLIKE YOU TRAITOROUS VERMIN, I'LL SURVIVE THE PENDING EXPLOSION. IT IS WHAT I WAS CREATED TO DO!

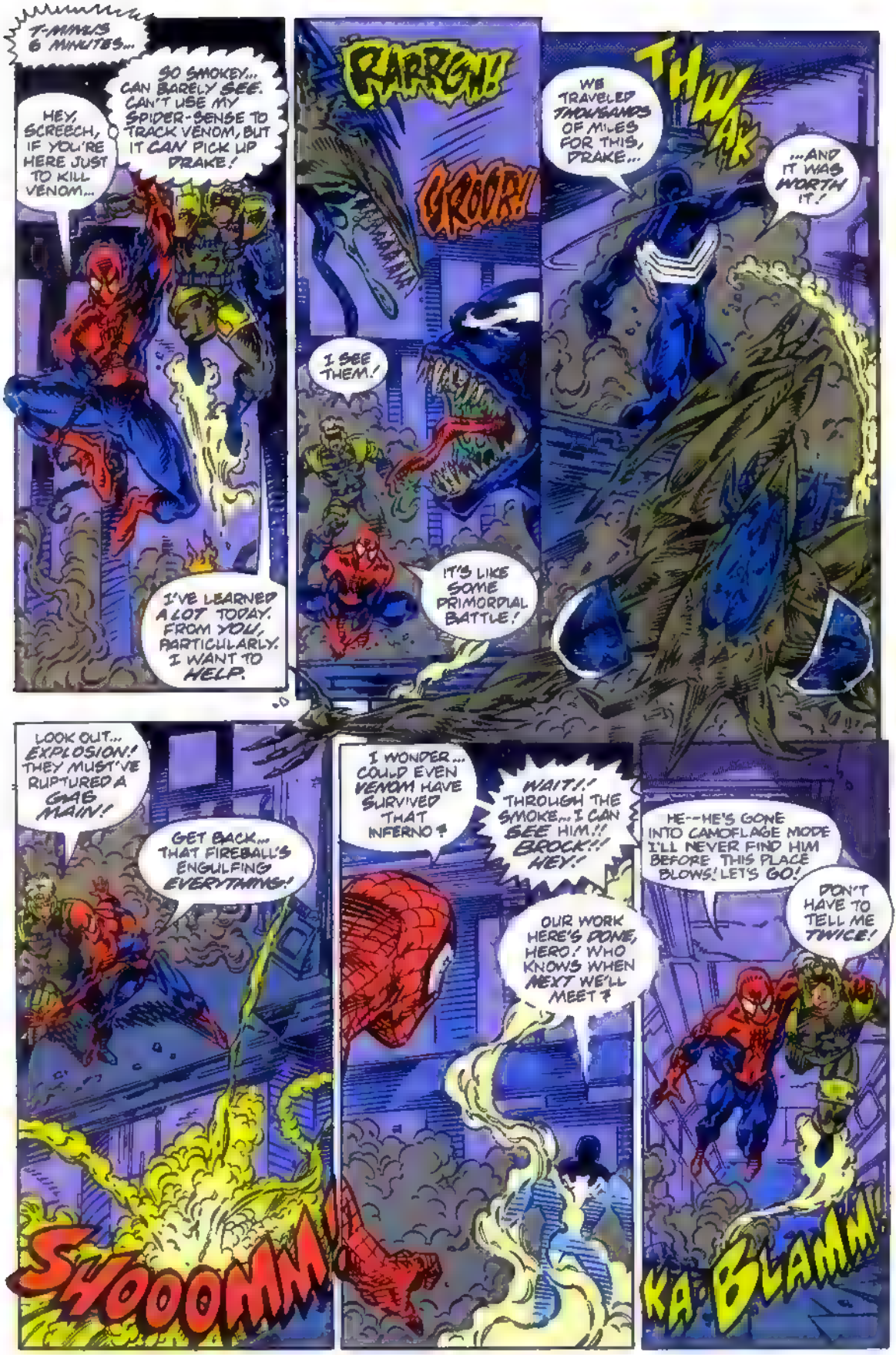

I'LL MERELY KEEP YOU ENGAGED IN COMBAT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO ESCAPE!
MIKASHI'S FORMULA'S GONE HAYWIRE... MIXING WITH THE AMBIENT RADIATION AND MUTATING DRAKE EVEN FURTHER!
SOMEBODY HELP... I HAVE NO POWER!
WHEN YOU GET TO HADES, SAY HI TO HUGH TAYLOR, PUNK!
THWIPPP
HE'S A JERK, BUT I CAN'T LET BOMBY GET HIT WITH DRAKE'S ACID-SALIVA!
TH-THANKS SPIDEY! I'M PUTTIN' YOU IN FOR A MERIT BADGE!
NOTHING ANY SELF-RESPECTING HERO WOULDN'T DO!
WHAT'LL WE DO AGAINST THAT THING? WE'VE NO WEAPONS! NO WAY TO FIGHT IT!
GRRAHWH!
OUR DEFENSES ARE ZILCH, SPIDEY. EVEN YOUR WEBS WILL ONLY KEEP DRAKE BUSY FOR A FEW SECONDS!
WAIT!! WHO'S THAT?! IT LOOKS LIKE...
BA ZAMM!
ATTENTION! THIS BASE WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN TEN MINUTES. MANUAL OVERRIDE OPTION NO LONGER AVAILABLE. RED ALERT!

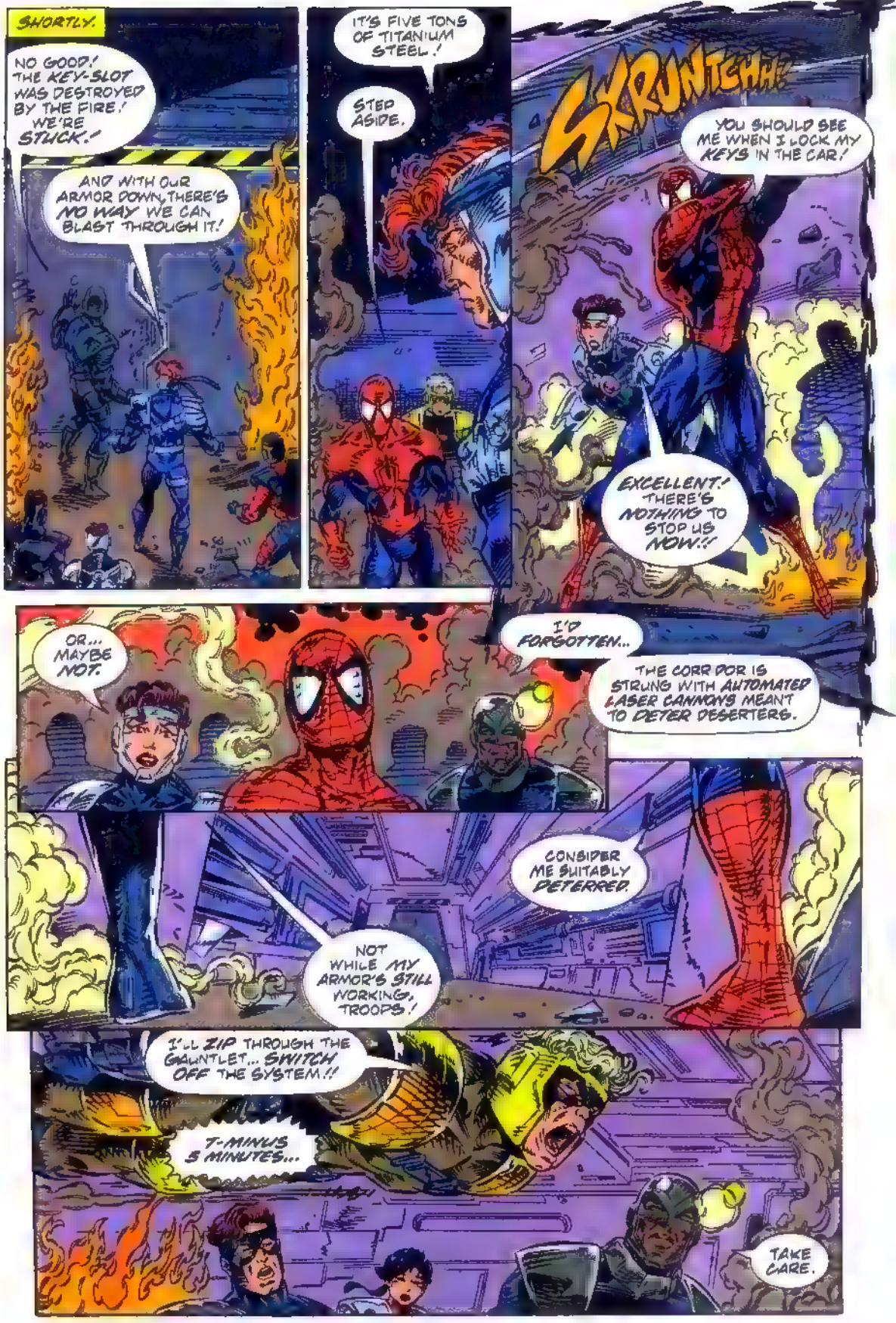
I COULDN'T STAND BY AND WATCH YOU GUYS DIE!!
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I'M ONE OF YOU!!
SCREECH!
YOU'RE TAYLOR'S BRAT! WELL, I'LL GIVE HIM A MATCHED SET OF DEAD KIDS!!
BESIDES, NOW YOU'RE LOCKED IN WITH ME!
YOU TAKE THE LOW ROAD, SPIDEY...I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ONE!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY POWERS HAVE BEEN SO SORELY TESTED! I HAVEN'T SAT STILL SINCE I GOT HERE!
NUTS! WE'RE CUT OFF BY THE FLAMES! THEY'RE ON THEIR OWN AGAINST THAT THING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SCREECH CAME BACK FOR US!
KNOW WHATCHA MEAN. MAYBE HE AIN'T SUCH A JERK AFTER ALL!
STAY STILL... I HATE IT WHEN MY FOOD SQUIRMS TOO MUCH!
MY FIREPOWER MIGHT BE GONE, BUT YOU CAN STILL COUNT ME IN THIS FIGHT!
T-MINUS 9 MINUTES

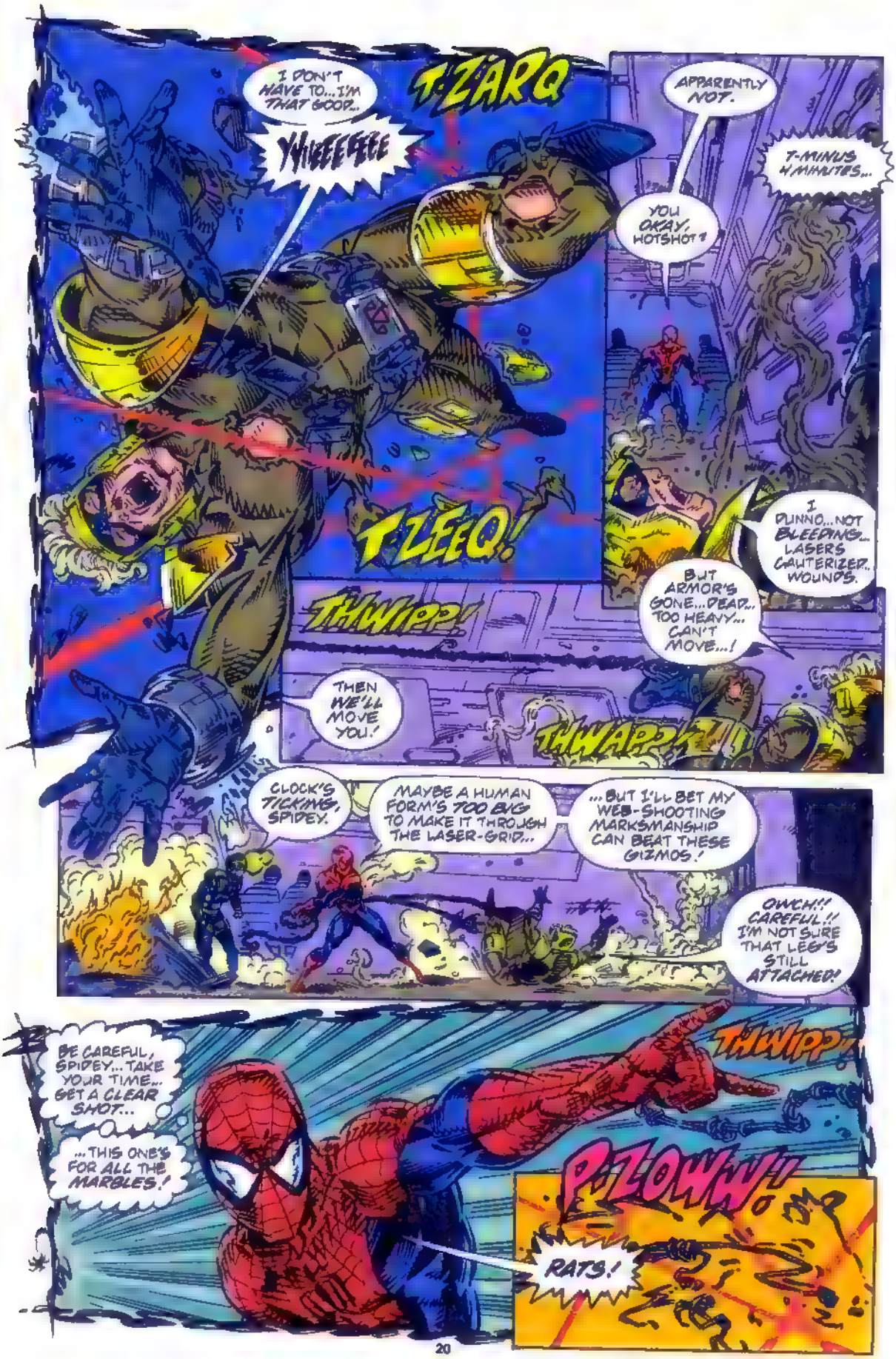

NOTHING, IT SEEMS, CAN STOP US NOW, GENERAL.
WE'VE GOT ALL THE LOOT FROM THE "CAPITAL CRIME WAVE," DITCHED OUR ENEMIES, AND FINALLY KILLED THOSE ARACHNOID PESTS!
HMM? I'M SORRY?
I WAS ONLY THINKING, TREECE... THINKING ABOUT THE PAST.
SNAP OUT OF IT, MAN! I NEED YOU ALERT!
BACK IN THE BUNKER.
SPIDER-MAN'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO COMBINE EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT INTO ONE FINAL BURST!
ARRRGH!! IT SHALL AVAIL YOU NOT! I AM POWER SUPREME!!
I'M CARLTON DRAKE... HOMO APACHYLSSS— AARRRGGHH!!!
FZZAMM!
PZOOWW!!
TWIPP!!
CRASSHHH!
NUARRY... BEFORE DRAKE DIGS HIMSELF OUT! HELP ME WITH VENOM!
WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME FIGHTING, SCREECH! AND IF NONE OF YOU WILL CARRY VENOM OUT OF HERE, I WILL!!
LISTEN... COMING BACK FOR YOU GUYS WAS ONLY PART OF THE REASON I RETURNED.
...THE OTHER WAS TO MAKE SURE IT WAS MY HAND THAT KILLED VENOM!!
WE'RE DOING IT!! WE'RE DRIVING HIM BACK!
LOOK OUT!! THE CEILING'S COMING DOWN!!
NO WAY DOES THAT MURDERER COME WITH US!
THIS BETTER WORK... THIS IS THE LAST OF MY BATTERY!


GUESS AGAIN, TWERP.
T-MINUS 8 MINUTES...
WE'VE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH YOU, IT'S TRUE...
...BUT FOR NOW, WE'VE BIGGER FISH TO FRY!!
YAAWGH! HE'S AWAKE!
GO AHEAD, MONSTER! I... I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE.!!
I DON'T GET IT! VENOM'S LETTING HIM...GO?!?
WAITAMINUTE! STOP, VENOM! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
WE'VE NOT MANY FRAILTIES... YOU KNOW THAT!
SONICS... CONCUSSIVE BLASTS... AND FIRE!
BUT WHAT ARE OUR FEARS, COMPARED TO THOSE DRAKE INSTILLS IN COUNTLESS INNOCENTS?!
DO YOU, KNOW? HOW CAN YOU, POSSIBLY?
WHAT IS OUR PAIN, WHEN HELD UP TO THE TRAGEDIES THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES WILL SUFFER IF THE LIFERS' EVIL SCHEMES COME TO FRUITION!
WHAT IS OUR DEATH, WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST THE PEACE THIS MONSTER'S DESTRUCTION WILL BRING?!
SKREEEEE!

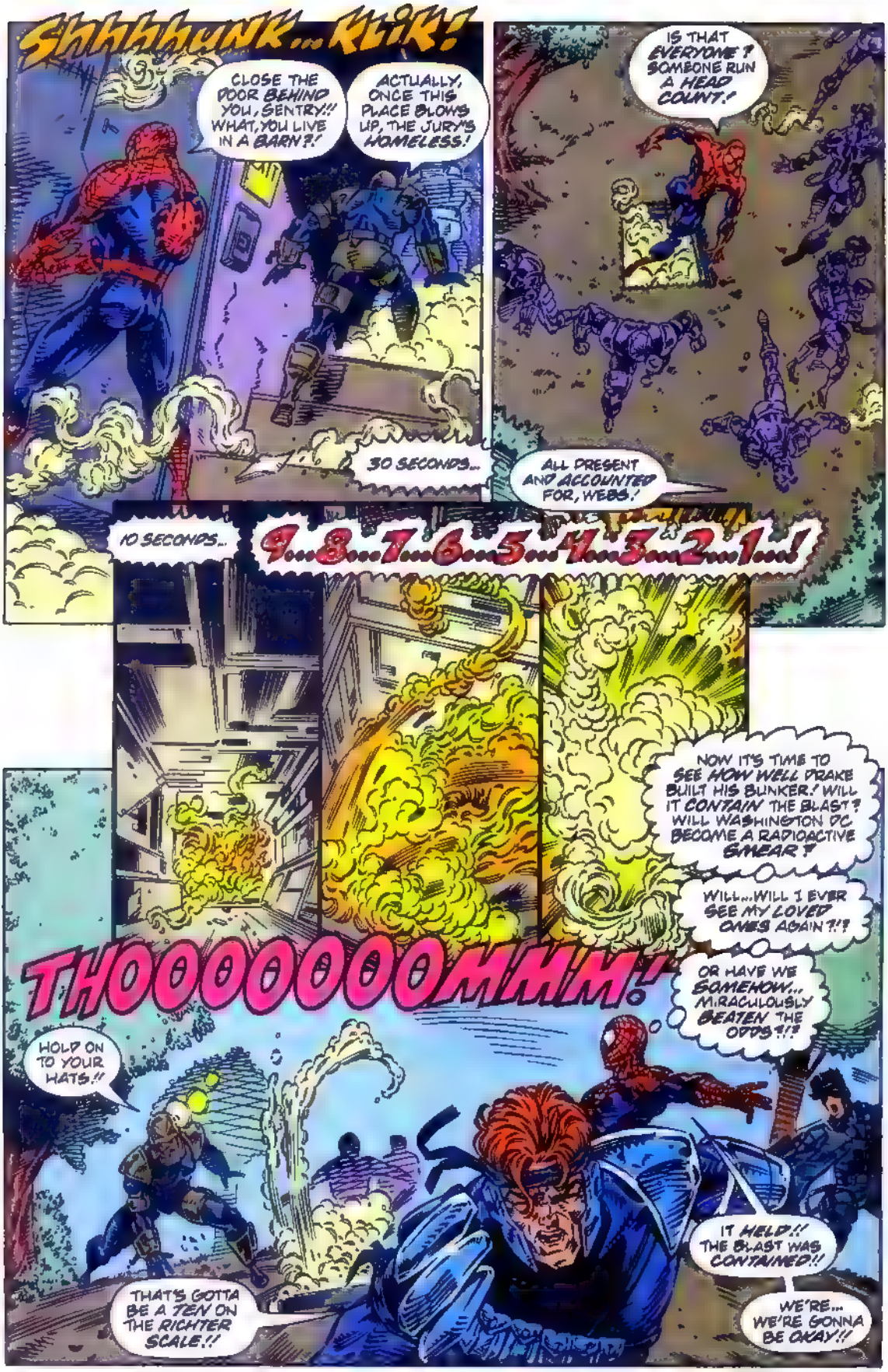

I'M CONFUSED...
...WE SHOULD ADMIRE THE RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION OF A CONVICTED MURDERER?
YOU WON'T ESCAPE US A SECOND TIME, DRAKE!
RRUMMBBLE
YOU CAN CHANGE YOURSELF INTO A PAPERWEIGHT AND WE'LL SNIFF YOU OUT!
YOU FOOL! OUR BATTLE HAS COLLAPSED THE ALREADY WEAKENED FLOORING!! WE'RE... FALLING!!
T-MINUS 7 MINUTES...
IT'S NO GOOD! THIS WHOLE PLATFORM IS TOO UNSTABLE!! WE'VE GOT TO BEAT FEET IF WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
I CAN'T LEAVE BROCK... I HAVE TO SAVE HIM!
TAKE A MEMO, SENTRY... THAT'S WHAT HEROES DO!!
NO GOOD... PLACE IS LOUSY WITH SMOKE!
TWIPP
YOU ALL GO AHEAD... GET MIHO AND SNEAKY TO SAFETY!
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, PEOPLE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TAKING THE STAIRS! ELEVATOR'S OUTTA SERVICE!
SCREECH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, SENTRY...
...GROPING FOR REDEMPTION!


T-MINUS 6 MINUTES...
SO SMOKEY... CAN BARELY SEE. CAN'T USE MY SPIDER-SENSE TO TRACK VENOM, BUT IT CAN PICK UP DRAKE!
HEY, SCREECH, IF YOU'RE HERE JUST TO KILL VENOM...
I'VE LEARNED A LOT TODAY. FROM YOU, PARTICULARLY. I WANT TO HELP.
RARRGH!
GROOR!
I SEE THEM!
IT'S LIKE SOME PRIMORDIAL BATTLE!
WE TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES FOR THIS, DRAKE...
THWAK
...AND IT WAS WORTH IT!
LOOK OUT... EXPLOSION! THEY MUST'VE RUPTURED A GAS MAIN!
GET BACK... THAT FIREBALL'S ENGULFING EVERYTHING!
SHOOOMM
I WONDER... COULD EVEN VENOM HAVE SURVIVED THAT INFERNO?
WAIT!! THROUGH THE SMOKE... I CAN SEE HIM!! BROCK!!! HEY!
OUR WORK HERE'S DONE, HERO! WHO KNOWS WHEN NEXT WE'LL MEET?
HE--HE'S GONE INTO CAMOFLAGE MODE I'LL NEVER FIND HIM BEFORE THIS PLACE BLOWS! LET'S GO!
DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!
KA-BLAMM!


SHORTLY.
NO GOOD! THE KEY-SLOT WAS DESTROYED BY THE FIRE! WE'RE STUCK!
AND WITH OUR ARMOR DOWN, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN BLAST THROUGH IT!
IT'S FIVE TONS OF TITANIUM STEEL!
STEP ASIDE.
SKRUNTCHH!
YOU SHOULD SEE ME WHEN I LOCK MY KEYS IN THE CAR!
EXCELLENT! THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP US NOW!!
I'D FORGOTTEN...
THE CORRIDOR IS STRUNG WITH AUTOMATED LASER CANNONS MEANT TO DETER DESERTERS.
OR... MAYBE NOT.
CONSIDER ME SUITABLY DETERRED.
NOT WHILE MY ARMOR'S STILL WORKING, TROOPS!
I'LL ZIP THROUGH THE GAUNTLET... SWITCH OFF THE SYSTEM!!
T-MINUS 5 MINUTES...
TAKE CARE.


I DON'T HAVE TO... I'M THAT GOOD...
T'ZARQ
YHEEEEEEE
T'LEEQ!
APPARENTLY NOT.
T-MINUS 4 MINUTES...
YOU OKAY, HOTSHOT?
I DUNNO... NOT BLEEDING... LASERS CAUTERIZED WOUNDS.
THWIPP!
BUT ARMOR'S GONE... DEAD... TOO HEAVY... CAN'T MOVE...!
THEN WE'LL MOVE YOU!
THWAPP!
CLOCK'S TICKING, SPIDEY.
MAYBE A HUMAN FORM'S TOO BIG TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE LASER-GRID...
...BUT I'LL BET MY WEB-SHOOTING MARKSMANSHIP CAN BEAT THESE GIZMOS!
OWCH!! CAREFUL!! I'M NOT SURE THAT LEG'S STILL ATTACHED!
BE CAREFUL, SPIDEY... TAKE YOUR TIME... GET A CLEAR SHOT...
...THIS ONE'S FOR ALL THE MARBLES!
THWIPP!
P'LOWW!
RATS!

T-MINUS 2 MINUTES..
LET ME TRY! FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T SHOW UP ON SECURITY SYSTEMS. THAT'S WHY I WAS SUCH A GREAT SNEAK-THIEF!
WELL, IT'S A LONG SHOT...BUT WE DON'T HAVE TOO MANY OTHER CHOICES.
I HOPE THESE SYSTEMS AREN'T BASED ON ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT, AS IT'S THE ONLY PART OF THE SPECTRUM I CAN'T BEND AROUND ME TO "APPEAR" INVISIBLE!
I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE MY POWER COMES FROM...OR HOW IT WORKS. BUT THAT'S A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER DAY!
...OR YOU BLOW UP!
THIS IS IT... YOUR BIGGEST TEST YET...DON'T BLOW IT...
I DID IT!!
AND ALL YOU MACHO STUD-PUPPIES REMEMBER... IT WAS A GIRL WHO SAVED YOUR FANNIES!
KLIK!
T-MINUS 1 MINUTE...
ALWAYS APPROPIATE COMMENTARY, SNEAKS!
LET'S GET THIS BRIGADE OF WALKING WOUNDED HIGH-STEPPING!
SOME DEDS DE MANNER
LET'S HAVE THAT KEY-CARD!
COMING RIGHT UP!
BLIP!
SHHHHUNK!
GOING UP!


SHHHHUNK...KLIK!
CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU, SENTRY!! WHAT, YOU LIVE IN A BARN?!
ACTUALLY, ONCE THIS PLACE BLOWS UP, THE JURY'S HOMELESS!
30 SECONDS...
IS THAT EVERYONE? SOMBONE RUN A HEAD COUNT!
ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, WEBS!
10 SECONDS...
9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...!
THOOOOOOOMMM!
NOW IT'S TIME TO SEE HOW WELL DRAKE BUILT HIS BUNKER! WILL IT CONTAIN THE BLAST? WILL WASHINGTON DC BECOME A RADIOACTIVE SMEAR?
WILL...WILL I EVER SEE MY LOVED ONES AGAIN?!?
OR HAVE WE SOMEHOW... MIRACULOUSLY BEATEN THE ODDS?!?
HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS!!
IT HELD!! THE BLAST WAS CONTAINED!!
THAT'S GOTTA BE A TEN ON THE RICHTER SCALE!!
WE'RE... WE'RE GONNA BE OKAY!!

MEANWHILE, 7,000 FEET OVERHEAD.
AUTO-PILOT'S RUNNING CRISP AND CLEAN.
SCANNERS NO LONGER REGISTER THE BUNKER... IT'S GONE; AND EVERYTHING IN IT!
STARTING OVER IS ALWAYS SUCH AN ADVENTURE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, GENERAL?
I LEFT MY SON TO DIE, ROLAND. THERE'S NO STARTING OVER FOR ME.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? HE'S JUST A KID! YOU CAN MAKE ANOTHER ONE JUST LIKE HIM!
GOOD LORD! THAT'S A PARAMOUR X-38 GOVERNMENT FIGHTER! THE LOUSY FEDS ARE ON TO US, TAYLOR!
KZZZZT! ATTENTION, UNMARKED AIRCRAFT! YOU ARE VIOLATING FEDERAL AIRSPACE! LAND IMMEDIATELY OR WE'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN!
KZZZZT! THIS IS YOUR ONLY WARNING! YOU'VE BEEN CLEARED TO LAND AT THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES...
WE'VE GOTTA THINK FAST, TAYLOR... GET OUR STORIES STRAIGHT!
WE JUST DETONATED A NUCLEAR WARHEAD WITHIN CITY LIMITS...
...AND WE'VE 3,000 POUNDS OF STOLEN ARTIFACTS IN STEERAGE!
I HOPE YOU LOOK GOOD IN ORANGE PRISON-JUMPSUITS, GENERAL!!
IT'S NOTHING TO FEAR, ROLAND... JUST OUR FASTS CATCHING UP WITH US.
SIT TIGHT AND TAKE IT LIKE A MAN.

WHADDAYA KNOW ! THE FEDS ROUNDED UP TREECE AND THE GENERAL AFTER ALL ! GOOD ! THEY'VE GOT PLENTY TO ANSWER FOR !
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO SCORE AN INDICTMENT AGAINST THEM FOR THIS MESS. AT THE VERY LEAST THE E.P.A. CAN MAKE SOMETHING STICK !
THE LIFE FOUNDATION... WHAT A JOKE !
THEY'VE NO RESPECT FOR LIFE AT ALL... EXCEPT MAYBE THEIR OWN !
LUCKY THING SPIDEY ROUNDED YOU BOYS UP ! WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF QUESTIONS WE WANNA ASK YOU !
GO CHOKE ON A DONUT, FLATFOOT !
STILL... I'M BUMMED. MIKASHI'S DEAD. SPOILER GOT AWAY.
VENOM'S ESCAPED, YET AGAIN. WE LOST THE CURE FOR CANCER, AND DRAKE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE MET HIS END, NOT TO MENTION THAT KID WHOSE MURDER OPENED UP THE CAN OF WORMS !
SO MANY DEAD. AND FOR WHAT ?
MONEY ? SCIENCE ?! FEAR ???
THANKS FOR THE HELP DOWN THERE, SPIDEY. I THINK WE'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE OTHERS TO SEE THE LIGHT.
KINDA IRONIC THAT THE "COWARD" IS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED THIS ORDEAL INTACT, ISN'T IT ?
I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS A COWARD.
DEEP DOWN I DON'T THINK YOUR FRIENDS DID EITHER.
* SEE ARACHNID #1. -- ERIC

HEY, BUDDY! I TOLD YOU REPORTERS TO STAY BEHIND THE POLICE LINES!
SORRY, OFFICER... JUST TRYING TO GET A SCOOP... YOU KNOW HOW IT IS!
DEADLINES ARE YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE! NOW GET BEHIND THE BARRICADE, OKAY?
CERTAINLY. WE REALIZE THAT YOUR HANDS ARE FULL. SO SORRY.
I'D BEST HOP A FLIGHT BACK WEST WHILE CONFUSION STILL REIGNS. THANKFULLY, WE DON'T ALERT PARKER'S SPIDER-SENSE, OR ELSE THIS FRACAS WOULD BEGIN ANEW. AS FOR THE JURY... WE'LL HAVE TO SEE.
WILL THE JURY CONTINUE TO HUNT VENOM?
PERHAPS... BUT IT WILL BE ON OUR TERMS, NOT GENERAL TAYLOR'S.
HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP, MS. MIKASHI?
AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED.
ALTHOUGH MY FATHER IS DEAD, I KNOW HE'D BE PLEASED TO SEE HIS WORK SPARED THE INDIGNITIES THAT DRAKE WISHED TO HEAP UPON IT. BETTER IT WAS DESTROYED THAN CORRUPTED.
ONE OTHER THING: WOULD YOU... COULD YOU THANK PETER PARKER FOR KEEPING HIS PROMISE TO MY FATHER?*
IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE.
* ISSUE #3.-- ERIC
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO MAKE GOOD ON THAT OLD INSCRIPTION I WROTE IN MIKASHI'S ESU YEARBOOK...
SOMETIMES I GET SO FOCUSED ON SAVING THE WORLD, I FORGET ABOUT THE INDIVIDUALS.
AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE, THEN BEING SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

MAYBE WE DIDN'T TAKE SUCH A BEATING AFTER ALL.
WE DID THWART THE LIFER'S WASHINGTON DC CRIME WAVE, NOT TO MENTION PREVENTING THE CREATION OF A TERRIBLE WEAPON.
THWIPP
STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT THE WORLD WOULD'VE BEEN LIKE IF MIKASHI'S CANCER CURE REALLY DID WORK
SO MUCH SUFFERING WOULD BE AVOIDED. SO MANY LIVES SAVED.
I SWEAR THAT MY DREAMS WON'T BE CORRUPTED BY GREED OR FEAR THE WAY MIKASHI'S WAS.
I PRAY THAT MY LOVED ONES WON'T BE LEFT ALONE, HOLDING THE BAG, AFTER I'M DEAD AND GONE
AND I HOPE THAT MAYBE, IF HE'S LUCKY, MIKASHI'S FOUND THE REDEMPTION HE SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT. WHEN HE DIED TRYING TO DESTROY HIS ARACHNIS PROJECT GONE MAD.
BECAUSE WITHOUT HOPE, THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN TRYING.

LATER THAT NIGHT.
HEROES, VILLAINS, AND VIGILANTES ARE LONG SINCE GONE, LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH.
BUT SOMEHOW, MIRACULOUSLY, DEATH HAS BEEN DENIED TONIGHT.
I... I LIVE!!
MY EXO-SKELETON PERFORMED PERFECTLY, PROTECTING ME FROM THE BLAST AND ABSORBING BOTH THE AMBIENT RADIATION AND MY LIFE-THREATENING CANCERS.
AND NOW I MAY SHED THE BRITTLE REMAINS, AS THEY'VE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE.
I FEEL YOUNGER... REVITALIZED!
ALTHOUGH I'VE HELD MISTRESS DEATH AT BAY, I'VE COME UP SHORT IN MY ONGOING FEUD WITH SPIDER-MAN. I'VE LOST ARACHNIS... AND THE HARD EARNED TREASURE FROM THE CRIME-WAVE...
...NOT TO MENTION THE HUMILIATING THRASHING I TOOK AT THE HANDS OF VENOM!
WORST OF ALL, I'VE VIRTUALLY DEPLETED MY NEW-FOUND HEALING-ABILITY. I'M BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED... COUGH!! KAFF!!
SPIDER-MAN AND THE JURY WILL PAY... OH, HOW THEY WILL SUFFER. I'LL MAKE SURE OF THAT!
WITH THE DATA DESTROYED NEITHER I, NOR ANYONE ELSE, WILL EVER USE MIKASHI'S DISCOVERIES TO CURE CANCER AGAIN.
THE END